

AN INTRODUCTION TO SYRIAC STUDIES



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Fr. Emmanuel Thelly C.M.I.

An Introduction to Syriac Studies

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Introduction to Syriac Studies.

(Mini Syriac Grammar)

This booklet is just an introduction to Syriac studies. The Grammar of Fr. Gabriel (1922) of Fr. Ludovic (1951); of Fr. Jerome (1944) and mine (1961) as well as the erudite grammar of Rev. Fr. Thomas Arayathinal (1957, 1959); of Mar Aprem (1981) etc. are there for scholars or those interested in further studies. Rev.Dr. Thomas Koonammakkal was behind the making of these notes.

The languages of the world can be divided into five main families : The Aryan (Indo-European); Semitic, Mongolian, Dravidian, and the Negroid. Hebrew, Aramaic (Syriac), Assyrian, Arabic etc. are of the Semetic family.

Aramaic/Syriac is one of the oldest of languages; and hence very simple. Our Lord Jesus Christ and his mother, Bl. Virgin Mary and the Apostles spoke the same. Some parts of the Old Testament, and the Gospel of St. Mathew were originally written in Syriac.

European scholars use either the Chaldean or Western pronunciation. No one is faithful to our ancient Indian tradition. Even in the Assyrian Church of the East (Trichur) they pronounce many words and some vowels like the westerners, probably from the influence of those Jacobite priests who helped them to translate their liturgical books. As to their pronunciation of certain words the influence of some modern Middle Eastern Syriac teachers as well may not be denied.

Fr. Emmanuel Thelly C.M.I.

There are only twenty two letters in this language; namely . ك ح ط ز ه و ی ث د ذ ر ف ق گ They are written and read from the right to the left. All letters start from the line. They can be written continuously but for a few, namely ه و ی ث د ذ ر ف Some have hard and soft pronunciations, namely ک ح ط ز ه ی Some have hard and soft pronunciations, namely ک ح ط ز ه ی The hard sound is called Kusaya and the soft sound Rukaka. The Syro-Malabarians add the sound of ر when ک ح ط ز ه ی are doubled.

The pronunciation and numerical value of the consonants:

1 അ a = (അ) ഹ
 2 ഊ, ഐ u, v, b = (ഊ) ഹ
 3 ഓ gh, g = (ഓ) ഹ
 4 ദ dh, d = (ദ) ഹ
 5 ഞ h = (ഞ) ഹ
 6 ഊ(w) v = (ഊ) ഹ
 7 സ z = (സ) ഹ
 8 ഞ(ch) h = (ഞ) ഹ
 9 (ന) ത്ത(t) th = (ന) ഹ
 10 യ(i) y = (യ) ഹ
 20 ക kh, k = (ക) ഹ
 30 ല l = (ല) ഹ
 40 മ m = (മ) ഹ
 50 ന n = (ന) ഹ
 60 സ s = (സ) ഹ
 70 അ a (e) = (അ) ഹ
 80 ഊ ഊ v, p = (ഊ) ഹ
 90 സ s = (സ) ഹ
 100 (വ) ക്ക q = (വ) ഹ
 200 റ r = (ര) ഹ
 300 ശ(sh) s = (ശ) ഹ
 400 സ, സത്ത th, (s) t = (സ) ഹ

The vowels are expressed by certain dots above or below the letters with or without certain consonants.

The vowels are: ā — ā , ī , ū ; e , o ; ai , au ; eg. بَ بِ بُ بِ

ܐ ܒ ܓ ܕ ܗ ܘ ܙ ܠ ܡ ܢ ܥ ܦ ܩ ܪ ܬ ܝܢ These letters are not joined to the following letter nor do they touch each other.

There are no doubled letters in Syriac. But we pronounce some letters doubled , under certain conditions and this mode of pronunciation is called Doubling.

Similarly, we pronounce two letters as one under certain particular situations and is called Assimilation.

The Personal Pronouns :

They she he

Of the third person:

You (pl.)	you (sing.)
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Of the second person: 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎽𐎢𐎡𐎹 𐎧𐎠𐎢𐎡𐎹 𐎧𐎠𐎢𐎡𐎹
We I

Of the first person : مَنْ مَنْ

The personal pronouns can be used as verb to be in the present tense agreeing with the subject in gender number and person. eg. (You are Joseph). **أَنْتَ أَنْتَ أَنْتَ**

Note: 1) When they are used as verbs the **ﺉ** of **ﺉﻧﻰ** and the **ﺉ** of **ﺉﻧﻰ . ﺉﻧﻰ** are occulted (marked by a small line above and are not pronounced). eg. **ﺉﻧﻰ ﺉﻧﻰ ﺉﻧﻰ** (I am Jesus)

(He is Mathew) ܡܬܬܝ ܡܬܬܝ

Note 2) When 𐤁𐤍 is joined to 𐤁𐤍 the second 𐤍 is changed into 𐤎 (yod) and becomes 𐤁𐤎𐤍 eg. 𐤁𐤎𐤍 𐤁𐤎𐤍 . 𐤁𐤎𐤍 𐤁𐤎𐤍 .

The verbal form used alone can show the subject also. **أنتَ توماس** (You are Thomas)
أنا يوسف I am Joseph. **أنا ماثيو** I am Mathew.

The third person plurals used as verbs are **يَفْعَلُونَ** .eg. **يَفْعَلُونَ** .
Rem.1) As pronouns they are used in the accusative case.

2) **كُفٍّ** and **كُفٍّ** are usually fused together as **كُفٍّ كُفٍّ**: **كُفٍّ كُفٍّ**

The personal pronouns can be declined thus (though scientifically they are combined with some particles/prepositions). eg. אני אתה הוא היא הם

[illegible]

The enclitic form of the personal pronouns are called inseparable pronouns. They are grouped into different sets to be added to nouns verbs and particles. The first group added to nouns ending in ن can easily be derived from the declension of the personal pronouns.

They are : $\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{1}{7}, \frac{1}{8}, \frac{1}{9}, \frac{1}{10}$

(The other groups can be formed/learned from these).

VERBS.

Syriac verbs have trilateral roots = ie. of three letters and they are called radicals. The root of a verb is its 3rd pers. m. s. of the past/perfect tense. (In some roots all the three radicals may not be expressed.)

The verbs have only one conjugation and the different forms are obtained by the prefixing or suffixing or both (of a letter or letters). The different forms of the past tense can be derived for the most part by adding the endings of the pers. pronouns.

Note: ܐ, ܝ, ܘ are called weak letters and their presence - whether in the beginning, middle or end of a root causes some changes in the conjugation. Some verbs may have two or more of their radicals weak letters.) Our typical verb is ܡܠܟ (he wrote) wherein all the three radicals are subject to hard and soft pronunciation.

Perfect/past tense:

- ܡܠܟ 3 p. m.s. he wrote
 ܡܠܟܝܬ 3 p. f.s. she wrote
 ܡܠܟܬ 2 p.m.s. you wrote
 ܡܠܟܬܝܬ 2 p.f.s. you wrote
 ܡܠܟܬܝܬ 1 p.c. I wrote
 ܡܠܟܬܝܬܝܬ 3 p.m.pl. They wrote
 ܡܠܟܬܝܬܝܬܝܬܝܬ do f.pl. " "
 ܡܠܟܬܝܬܝܬܝܬܝܬܝܬ 2 p. m.pl. You wrote
 ܡܠܟܬܝܬܝܬܝܬܝܬܝܬ do f. " " "
 ܡܠܟܬܝܬܝܬܝܬܝܬܝܬ 1 c. pl. We wrote.

Imperative. (second person only)

- ܡܠܟܬܝܬܝܬ m. s. (you) Write
 ܡܠܟܬܝܬܝܬܝܬ F. s. " "
 ܡܠܟܬܝܬܝܬܝܬܝܬ m. pl. " "
 ܡܠܟܬܝܬܝܬܝܬܝܬܝܬ F.pl. " "

Future tense (from the imperative).

- ܡܠܟܬܝܬܝܬܝܬ 3 p. m. s. He will (shall) write.
 ܡܠܟܬܝܬܝܬܝܬܝܬ 3 p. f. s. She " "
 ܡܠܟܬܝܬܝܬܝܬܝܬܝܬ 2 p. m. s. You " " "

To write — **میجبت م**
 To write — **لمیجبت لم**

m. s. writing. — **خَبْرٌ**
f. s. " . **خَبْرَةٌ**
m. pl. " **خَبَرٌ**
f. pl. " **خَبَرَاتٌ**

m. s. Written — **حَبِيبٌ**
 f. s. " — **حَبِيبَةٌ**
 m. pl. " — **حَبِيبِينَ**
 f. pl. " — **حَبِيبَاتٍ**

[illegible]

فَبَدِّلْهُ فَقَدْ هُمُ الْفٰسِقُونَ ۝ فَكَذَّبُوا بِآيٰتِنَا فَكُنَّا نُفٰسِقُونَ ۝

Note: 1) When a suffix beginning with a vowel is added to a verb, it loses its vowel.

2) Derivatives/causatives are formed by the addition of vowels, letters or both.

3) Passives are formed by prefixing **٤٦**. The place of **٦** of the prefix is taken by the regular prefix in the conjugation (as in the **٦** of the second derivatives.)

حَدَّثَنَا حَدَّثَنَا حَدَّثَنَا حَدَّثَنَا حَدَّثَنَا حَدَّثَنَا

4) The first and second derivatives have their imperative like the 3rd p. m.s. of their perfect tense; but the third radical weak verbs differ. **جَذِبْ جَذِبِي**

5) The infinitives of derivatives and passives end in **-и**.

6) The difference between the active and passive participles is that the active has ـٌ on its second radical and the passive has the vowel ـِ on its second radical! **مُجْتَنِبٌ مُجْتَنِبٌ**
مُجْتَنِبٌ مُجْتَنِبٌ مُجْتَنِبٌ

• prefixed to the first group of inseparable pronouns (but for the 3p. m. & s.) brings us to the second group (of insep.pron.) which are added to the pl. nouns ending in -. $\dot{\text{z}}$ or . $\dot{\text{z}}$

They are : -

Added to **حفظ**

حَدَّثَنَا حَدَّثَنَا حَدَّثَنَا حَدَّثَنَا حَدَّثَنَا حَدَّثَنَا حَدَّثَنَا حَدَّثَنَا

When the second and third radicals of a root are the same letters, we find that only one will be expressed there and the regular vowel of the second letter will be given to the first. (The suppressed letter will be expressed in the course of inflection/conjugation). Our model verb

for the same is **𐎧𐎠** he cheated/injured.

• ५३

۵۵۵

بخجہ .

بخجند .

چند

جُجھ . جُجھ .

جی. جی. جی.

• جَهْ

• جَهْ

• جَهْ • جَهْ

Imperative.

• هَهْ

• هَهْ

• هَهْ هَهْ هَهْ

• هَهْ هَهْ هَهْ

Future:

• هَهْ

• هَهْ

• هَهْ

• هَهْ

• هَهْ

• هَهْ

• هَهْ

• هَهْ

• هَهْ

• هَهْ

Infinitive: • هَهْ هَهْ

Active participle; • هَهْ • هَهْ • هَهْ

Passive participles: • هَهْ • هَهْ • هَهْ

When the second radical of a root is a weak letter, it is not usually expressed, and its vowel is given to the first radical and it becomes long. eg. • هَهْ (هَهْ) he spent the night/lodged. (In the course of inflection the weak letters • هَهْ • هَهْ • هَهْ interchange.)

• هَهْ

• هَهْ

• هَهْ

• هَهْ

• هَهْ

• هَهْ • هَهْ

Imperative:

Future:

Infinitive: مَبَّهٌ , مَبَّهَةٌ

Pass. part. : **حَبِيحٌ حَبِيحٌ حَبِيحٌ**

The third group of inseparable pronouns. (This can be formed for the most part, from the first group by prefixing , ه but for the first p.s.): انا، نحن، انت، انتم، هو، هم، هي، هن، لى، ليك، لكم، له، لهم، لها، لهن.

١. ج. ٢. ج. ٣. ج. ٤. ج. ٥. ج. ٦. ج. ٧. ج. ٨. ج. ٩. ج. ١٠. ج.

Appendix to page 10.

When the third radical of a root is a weak letter, it shows some peculiarities when suffixes and prefixes are added.eg. he wept. **حَبَّ** .

- حَبَّ .
- حَبَّ .
- حَبَّ .
- حَبَّ .
- حَبَّ حَبَّ .
- حَبَّ حَبَّ .
- حَبَّ .
- حَبَّ حَبَّ .

Imp.

- حَبَّ .
- حَبَّ .
- حَبَّ حَبَّ .
- حَبَّ حَبَّ .

Fut.

- يَحَبُّ .
- يَحَبُّ .
- يَحَبُّ .
- يَحَبُّ .
- يَحَبُّ .
- يَحَبُّ .
- يَحَبُّ .
- يَحَبُّ .

Infinitive.

يَحَبُّ . يَحَبُّ .

Act. part. . حَبَّ . حَبَّ . حَبَّ .

Pass. part. . حَبَّ . حَبَّ . حَبَّ .

Compound (periphrastic) tenses.

The present/ present continuous tense is formed by adding/suffixing personal pronouns (enclitics) to the present/active participles agreeing in gender and number, (but for the third person, unless for giving stress).eg.

He writes/he is writing. **خَبِّبْ**

She " " **خَبِّتْ**

You write/ you are writing. **خَبِّهْ (خَبِّبْ زَكَاةً)**

" " " " **خَبِّهْ (خَبِّتْ زَكَاةً)**

I (m.)write/ I am writing. **خَبِّبْ (خَبِّبْ زَكَاةً)**

I (f.) " " " (**خَبِّتْ (خَبِّتْ زَكَاةً)**

They " /they are writing. **خَبِّبْ**

" (f) " " " **خَبِّتْ**

You " you " " **خَبِّبْ (خَبِّبْ زَكَاةً)**

" (f.pl.) write/are " **خَبِّتْ (خَبِّتْ زَكَاةً)**

We write /We are writing. **خَبِّبْ (خَبِّبْ سَبْ)**

" " " " " **خَبِّتْ (خَبِّتْ سَبْ)**

The passive present tense is formed in the same way ie. by adding personal pronouns to the past/passive participles, agreeing in gender and number. eg.

It (he) is written. **حَبِّبْ**

" (she) " " **حَبِّتْ**

You are written. **حَبِّبْ (حَبِّبْ زَكَاةً)**

"(f) " " **حَبِّتْ (حَبِّتْ زَكَاةً)**

I am written. **حَبِّبْ (حَبِّبْ زَكَاةً)**

I(f) " " **حَبِّتْ (حَبِّتْ زَكَاةً)**

The past imperfect tense is formed by conjugating **لَوْ** with the present participles (with occulted **لَ**)

agreeing in gender number and person.eg.

He was writing. **خَبِّبْ لَوْ**

She was writing **خَبِّتْ لَوْ**

you (m) were writing **خَبِّبْ لَوْ**

you (f) were writing **خَبِّتْ لَوْ**

I (m) was writing. **خَبِّبْ لَوْ**

I (f) was writing. **خَبِّتْ لَوْ**

They (m) were writing. **خُتِبَ اَسْفَه**

They (f) were writing **خُتِبَ اَسْفَت**

You (m) were writing. **خُتِبَ اَسْفَهْه**

You (f) were writing. **خُتِبَ اَسْفَهْه**

We (m) were writing. **خُتِبَ اَسْفَهْ**

We (f) were writing. **خُتِبَ اَسْفَهْ**

The past perfect (pluperfect) tense is formed by conjugating both the principal verb and **اَسْفَهْ** in their perfect tenses. . Here too **اَسْفَهْ** will be occulted. eg He had written. **حَبَبَ اَسْفَهْ**

She had written. **حَبَبَ اَسْفَهْ**

you (m) had written. **حَبَبَ اَسْفَهْ**

You (f) had written. **حَبَبَ اَسْفَهْ**

I had written. **حَبَبَ اَسْفَهْ**

The first derivative of **اَسْفَهْ** : **اَسْفَهْ** its imperative : **اَسْفَهْ** its fut. **اَسْفَهْ** its inf. : **اَسْفَهْ** its Act. part. **اَسْفَهْ** ; its Pass. part. **اَسْفَهْ**

The second derivative of the same is **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**.

Verbs like **اَسْفَهْ** become **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**.

Its second derivative too loses its second radical and becomes **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**.

Verbs like **اَسْفَهْ** become **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**.

Its second derivative becomes **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**.

The passives are formed by prefixing **اَسْفَهْ** to the corresponding active with some changes of vowels and consonants. The letter Alap (ا) is replaced by the proper prefixes of the tenses..

اَسْفَهْ. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**.

اَسْفَهْ. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**.

اَسْفَهْ. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**.

اَسْفَهْ. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**.

اَسْفَهْ. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**...

اَسْفَهْ. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**. **اَسْفَهْ**.

The third class has no passive in the primitive; so, the second der. passive is used instead.

جیہ. ڀڳتہ. ہنڈھ.
ڀڳتہ. ڀڳتہ. ڀڳتہ. ڀڳتہ. ڀڳتہ. ڀڳتہ. ڀڳتہ. ڀڳتہ.

There are other derivatives (first der. B, group) formed by using servile letters : prefixing, suffixing, inserting, repeating etc. which are, so to say, regular in conjugation, but have an extra letter (letters) which remains always (as if bracketed) in all forms.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

بخه خه

بخاری

بخلاف

بخه فجه

Imp. **جہانگیر**

Fut. **يُجَاهِدُ**

Inf. **مِنْهُ**

Act.Part. **مَجْلَدٌ**

Pass. Part. **مَبْنِيٌّ**

In Syriac, a single word can be a complete sentence with a subject, predicate or finite verb and an object (personal). eg. he saved/redeemed me. **ܩܕܝܫܐ** . he killed him. **ܩܕܝܫܐ** crucify him.

و کف خیسم.

The inseparable pronouns/pronominal suffixes added to verbs facilitate this process. They are arranged into six groups (though they are essentially the same as the three groups added to nouns.) This is to help us to distinguish the verbal forms and meaning. The third person plurals **يَفْعَلُونَ** . **يَفْعَلُونَ** are not added to verbs but the separable pronouns **يَفْعَلُونَ** . **يَفْعَلُونَ** are used instead. **سَمَّيْتُهُمُ** I called them.

Note: 1) The first group of inseparable pronouns added to verbs are the same as the first group added to nouns ending in ن but for the 1st p. s.

2) Similarly the 3rd group but for the 3. p. m. s. is the same with λ -prefixed to the 1st group.

3) The 5th group, but for the 1st p.s. is the same as the 3rd group suffixed to nouns **فَعْلَانِ** and the like.

4) Similarly the 6th group is the same as the 3rd group devoid of the first vowel **ā** and 6th b) is the same as the 5th group devoid of the 1st vowel **a**.

5) The 1st and 2nd p. s. & pl. do not admit the suffixes of the respective persons; instead of them one of **يَوْمَ مَعَهُمْ نَسْ** inflected with pronominal suffixes is used. eg.

ܬܕܒܝܢ ܕܢܦܫܐ (cast yourself down.)

6)The present tense does not take any suffix; the separable pronouns are used instead.

ܕܬܫܬܐ ܕܗܘܢܐ (she loves them.)

7)Similarly, the 1st p. pl. in double nun ܢܢ and the 1st form of the infinitive, do not take suffixes.

Nouns .

In respect of origin, (within the language) nouns are either primitives or derivatives. Primitives are those which express primary notions necessary for social life, as ܢܗܡܪܐ day; ܐܒ father. .

Derivatives are those which are formed from other words as ܡܠܟܐ (from ܡܠܝܚܐ)

Note: It is the proper mark of Syriac nouns that they end in ܐ which is not a consonant but a concomitant of the vowel. (ܐܐ ܐܐ)

Nouns can be derived in various forms from the same stem/root signifying different aspects of the meaning implied in it.: a) by a change of vowels as ܡܠܟܐ holiness ; ܡܠܟܐ writing, ܡܠܟܐ king ܡܠܟܐ redeemer etc. ܡܠܟܐ bright light/flash of light.

b)By elision or repetition of radicals ܡܠܟܐ sleep from ܡܠܟܐ .

c)by adding servile letters (in the beginning,middle or end) ܡܠܟܐ east -place of sunrise ; ܡܠܟܐ teacher ܡܠܟܐ affliction ܡܠܟܐ mineral/metal , ܡܠܟܐ faith etc.

Though not entirely dependant upon their forms, nouns can be grouped maintaining the relation of a particular form to a particular signification as 1) noun active or first class, 2) noun passive or second class, 3)noun of action or third class.

1)Noun active comprises all nouns usually expressing the agent or doer of action denoted by the verb. (There are 3 forms from the primitive and 2 each from the derivatives. eg. ܡܠܟܐ friend ܡܠܟܐ thief ܡܠܟܐ redeemer ; ܡܠܟܐ sanctifying, ܡܠܟܐ sanctifier, ܡܠܟܐ betraying; ܡܠܟܐ. one who writes/causes to write.

Note: There can be nouns active (two forms each) from deponent verbs ܡܠܟܐ. ܡܠܟܐ one who remembers; ܡܠܟܐ ܡܠܟܐ one who fights, fighter.

2)Noun passive consists of nouns derived from the passive participle of the active voice and from the active participle of the passive voice usually having a pasive signification. It indicates the subject of the passion or quality expressed by the verb ie. the subject or person on whom the action expressed by the verb is fulfilled. The form in ܡܠܟܐ (from passive verbs) have the sense of "capable of, worthy of" as, ܡܠܟܐ worthy of praise, ܡܠܟܐ tangible. The primitive verbs of the first 3 classes have two noun forms each and the 4th

class has three. The derivatives have one each. The passives may have two each, (the second by suffixing ܐܢܝܢ) v.g.

ܡܚܒܝܢ
 ܡܚܒܝܢ
 ܡܚܒܝܢ
 ܡܚܒܝܢ
 ܡܚܒܝܢ
 ܡܚܒܝܢ
 ܡܚܒܝܢ
 ܡܚܒܝܢ

3) The noun of action comprises all other nouns commonly expressing the action, manner of doing, quality, instrument, or state etc. indicated by the verb. v.g. ܡܚܒܝܢ (ܡܚܒܝܢ) door, trap
 ܡܚܒܝܢ (ܡܚܒܝܢ) finding discovery, etc. ܡܚܒܝܢ

Note: They are formed by a) change of vowels, b) addition of suffixes and prefixes.

ADJECTIVES .

The gender, number, states etc. of adjectives are exactly the same as those of nouns. The nouns active and passive are used as adjectives (because of their very nature.). There are many adjectives derived in the form of nouns of action as ܡܚܒܝܢ modest ܡܚܒܝܢ great, ܡܚܒܝܢ red.

Appendix : The main differences in the conjugation of certain verbs.

ܡܚܒܝܢ (ܡܚܒܝܢ) ܡܚܒܝܢ ܡܚܒܝܢ ܡܚܒܝܢ
 ܡܚܒܝܢ (ܡܚܒܝܢ) ܡܚܒܝܢ ܡܚܒܝܢ ܡܚܒܝܢ
 ܡܚܒܝܢ (ܡܚܒܝܢ) ܡܚܒܝܢ ܡܚܒܝܢ ܡܚܒܝܢ

Appendix II The following excerpt of dialogues is taken from the booklet of Malpan Andrews Kalappurackal (1922 which I had copied in 1944 from the printed text of Rev. Fr. Zacharias Thekkekandam- Kalappurackal C.M.I.) The author had prepared it for the study and use of students of Syriac. May this help to fulfill his earnest desire.

Asking and thanking.

میں سے آپ کی خدمت میں ایک فائدہ ہے

I have a favour to beg of you.

مجھے آپ کی خدمت میں ایک فائدہ ہے

Do me this favour.

کیا آپ مجھے ایک اور فائدہ کریں گے؟

Will you do me another favour?

میں آپ کو بہت زیادہ مدیون ہوں

I am very much obliged to you.

میں آپ کو انتہائی مدیون ہوں

I am extremely indebted to you.

شکریہ ادا کرتا ہوں

I thank you.

میں آپ کو بہت پریشانی دیتا ہوں

I give you much trouble.

آپ مجھے بہت زیادہ پریشانی دے رہے ہیں

You take a great deal of trouble for me.

میں آپ کو بہت زیادہ پریشانی دینے کے لیے بہت سزاوارتہ ہوں

I am very sorry to trouble you so much.

میں آپ کو بہت زیادہ پریشانی دینے کے لیے شرمندہ ہوں

I am ashamed of the trouble I give you.

کوئی پریشانی نہیں

No trouble at all.

براہ کرم اس بات کا ذکر نہ کریں

Please don't mention it.

Affirming and denying.

میں آپ کو بتاؤں گا کہ کیا کرنا ہے

I will tell you what to do.

یہ ہے جو میں آپ کو یقین دلانا چاہتا ہوں

This is what I can assure you.

میں آپ کو یقین دلانا چاہتا ہوں

I wage it is so.

میں آپ کو یقین دلانا چاہتا ہوں

I wage it is not so.

میں آپ کو یقین دلانا چاہتا ہوں

I fancy so.

میں آپ کو یقین دلانا چاہتا ہوں

I fancy not.

کیا آپ کو یہ خیال ہے؟

Why do you think so?

میں آپ کو یقین دلانا چاہتا ہوں

I do not think so.

میں آپ کو یقین دلانا چاہتا ہوں

I dare say it is so.

کیا آپ کو یہ خیال ہے؟

What do you mean?

میں آپ کو یقین دلانا چاہتا ہوں

I don't know what you mean.

یہ ایک حقیقت ہے

It is a fact.

کیا آپ کو یقین ہے کہ آپ جیسا کہ فرماتے ہیں؟

Are you assured of what you say?

میں آپ کو یقین دلانا چاہتا ہوں

I should not have thought it so.

میں آپ کو یقین دلانا چاہتا ہوں

I wonder at it.

یہ حیرت انگیز ہے

This is quite astonishing.

یہ ایک ایسی بات ہے جو نہ ہونے کے برابر ہے

It is a thing not to be conceived.

میں آپ کو یقین دلانا چاہتا ہوں

It is incredible.

یہ بہت عجیب ہے

That is very strange.

یہ ایک ایسی بات ہے جو نہ ہونے کے برابر ہے

This is something strange.

مَنْتَ مِنْ كَيْفِ يَجِدُ؟

What is to be done?

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

What course is to be taken?

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

What course are we to take?

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

What have we to do?

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

What remains for us to do now?

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

We must resolve upon something.

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

We must take some course.

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

I am quite puzzled.

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

I don't know what to do.

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

I am at a loss what to do.

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

I am in great embarrassment.

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

This is very embarrassing.

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

I am thinking of one thing.

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

An idea has just struck me.

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

Come, let us do one thing.

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

I have altered my opinion.

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

Let us do otherwise.

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

What do you say to that?

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

What do you think of it?

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

I think as you do.

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

It is very well imagined.

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

That is a very good idea.

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

I am of your opinion.

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

Let us do so.

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

It is the best way.

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

Would it not be better?

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

It is the best thing we can do.

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

It is the only thing we have to do.

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

That is the only course we can take.

News.. ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

Is there any news today?

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

What is the best news?

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

What news can you tell us?

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

Have you not heard of anything?

ڇا ڪرڻو آهي؟

What is the talk in this town?

I have not heard of anything.

ٺڪڻ تمام گڻ ميڙي هئي.
This is very good news.

ڇا توهان اخبار پڙهيو؟
Did you read the newspaper?

مڙي خبر ڇا چئي ٿي؟
What does the paper say?

آڻڻ ڪو به اخبار آڻيو؟
I have read no paper today.

توهان ڪو به اخبار ڏٺو؟
Did you see that in any paper?

ٻڌڻ ڇا سڀني جي خبر ۾ آهي؟
It is only mentioned in a private letter.

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به چيو ٿو ته ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟
Do they say who received that private letter?

جيڪڏهن ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟
Yes, they name the person.

ڇا ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟
They doubt this news very much.

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟
This news wants confirmation.

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟
Whence have you had this news?

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟
I have had that news from good authority.

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟
That report is proved false.

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟
Do they still talk of war?

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟
Have you received any letter from your brother?

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟
How long is it since he wrote to you?

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟
I have not heard from him these two months.

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟
I expect a letter or card from him every day.

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟
Going and coming.

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟

Where are you going?

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟

Where are you going this way?

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟

I am going home.

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟

Whence do you come?

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟

I come from my brother's.

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟

Will you come with me?

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟

Where do you wish to go?

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟

Let us go (we will go) for a walk.

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟

Which way shall we go?

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟

We will go which way you please.

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟

Let us go to the fort.

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟

Let us take your brother on our way.

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟

As you please.

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟

Is Joseph at home?

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟

He is just gone.

ڇا ٻڌڻ ڪو به ڳالهه ٿي؟

Can you tell us where he is gone?

THE GIST OF SYRIAC GRAMMAR.

When they come to languages
Families five make sages.
One of them is Aryan
One is named Mongolian.

One is called Dravidian
One Semitic, one Negroid.
Aramaic, Arabic
And Hebrew are Semitic.

We can safely too divide
Our study of 'Ramaic
Which we now call Syriac
Into two groups for our ease.

One is that of the Grammar
Next is of Literature.
Grammar can be divided
Into four parts for study.

Orthography comes as first
Second Etymology
Third is Syntax and the fourth
Is the part called Prosody.

Literature has two parts
First, language's history
Next is called the study of
Literary works therein.

Orthography's part can be
Classified into three groups
Consonants and vowels and
Specialities of reading.

Doubling, Assimilation,
Occultation, M'tathesis
Substitution, Soft and Hard,
Are the six of consonants.

S'va, M'haggyana, and Speedy
Reading called Marhathana
And the like are of Vowels
And Diacritics are there.

Consonants we can divide
Under six headings for ease
And then move to Vowels fast;
Next we start to read pronouns.

Root we call the verbal stem
Which is in the singular
Masculine third person form;
From it we form all others.

We decline the Personals
From which learn Insep'rables.
And from them we can now form
Second and Third group suffix.

From these three groups we can get
Groups of Object Suffixes.
Verb 'To Be' in Present Tense
Can personals too express.

Verbs are of three Radicals;
And the Past Tense can be learned
With the help of Endings of
Pronouns attached to the root.

From the roots we are to turn
Unto Imperative forms;
From which Future can be formed
With Prefix and Suffixes.

From the root we then form out
Infinitive forms as well;
With the change of some vowels
We come to Participles.

Future with some particles
Show Subjunctive or purpose;
Prohibition is shown by
'LA' with future tense only.

Present participles with
Personal pronouns do form
Present tense in agreement
Of person, gend'r, and number.

'ES' prefix is what we give
For the Passive of the verbs;
Which will be substituted
By the prefix of the form.

But when there are too many 'THAV's
One or two can be dropped off
If the verbal form can be
Distinguished from such others.

As we conjugate the roots
So do we for all the verbs;
Frequentatives and Passives
All will follow the same way.

When one or more radicals
Are weak letters verbs will show
Some sorts of specialities
Which we can discern with ease.

When we come to nouns some are
Termed Primitives and others
Are then called Derivatives.
And are mostly from the verbs.

From the root three nouns we form
Two each from frequentatives;
From the passives two may come ;
One each their frequents may give.

Participles well mastered
Will help us to master nouns.
Gender's mostly determined
By the way they terminate.

For the States of nouns we have
Rules governing formation
Adjectives are like the nouns
For Gender, States and the like.

Participle Fem. does come
As the noun in Masculine
And its Gdama is often
Particip'al masculine.

A good lot of masculines
End in 'A' if Singular;
'A' will change to 'E' to form
Plurals of these kinds of nouns.

Of course, some have some other
Forms that are not regular.
Some take just additional;
Rules may not be water-tight.

Noun Fem. forms its plural word
Into 'ASA' if in 'THA'.
Some have not any reg'lar form
Some may use a diff'rent word.

Nouns in 'A' have only one
G'dama and that dropping 'A'.
Those in 'THA' have usually
Two distinct forms of Gdama.

Nouns in 'E' have 'AI' Construct
And in 'EEN' their Absolute.
Nouns in 'ASA' have construct
'AS'; and 'AN' as Absolute.

Adjectives come after nouns
Unless for stress set before.
But verbs usually precede .
Subject in a good sentence.

Poetic Metres vary
According to Syllables.
Plenty of poems we see
In syllables Five or S'ven.

Those in Four and Six we see
Less frequent than those before.
Those of Twelve are in plenty
As if four of three joined.

Threes of Five steps do exist
As well as those of Six steps.
Octo Syllab's are also
In use, in this good language.

Rhyming of the steps we see
In beginning or ending .
And Acrostics too we see
Used by poets of repute.

Fr. Emmanuel Thelly C.M.I.

Note:
'Ramaic = Aramaic.
Syllab's = syllables.
.Particip'al = participial.
Insep'rables = inseperables.
Gender's = gender is .
Frequentativ's = frequentatives.

